

**Livelihood Sector Working Group Meeting
Thursday, 28 March 2019, 14:00hrs,
UN House, Gaziantep**

Chair(s): Özlem Çavuş (UNDP)

Participants as

Institutions: KIZILAY, TAKAFUL AL SHAM, ACTED, QUDRA, UNDP, CONCERN, BOUSLA, WATAN, BONYAN, UNHCR, ORANGE, CARE

| Agenda | Discussion | Action Points |
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| <p>1: Updates on BN-LH Joint Meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 20th of March 2019, BN-LH meeting was held. Together with WFP, UNCHR, experts from İŞKUR and SGK, UNDP had the meeting with the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Services on ESSN. • The main purpose of ESSN exit strategy is to increase self-reliance of ESSN beneficiaries. Given the economic outlook of Turkey, ESSN has become a burden and does not contribute social cohesion. In addition, it is highlighted that ESSN causes the expansion of informal sector. The ESSN exit strategy also aims to increase the long-term resilience of beneficiaries by providing employment skills. • In the meeting, the challenges in front of transition from BN to LH are listed as follows: economic challenges, language barrier, informal sector, gender-related challenges, high unemployment rate, lack of job creation, lack of information on education and experience background, cultural barriers against working/seeking support, and challenges in integrating to urban context. • It is noted that demand side of labour market should be prioritized. • It is stated that it may be too early to implement ESSN exit strategy; therefore, a gradual transition period should be considered with an allocated budget. • The livelihood sector will continue to support the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Services by conducting a follow-up technical group meeting on mapping to determine the absorption capacity of 3RP sector. • It is decided that the third meeting will be held after June, 2019 depending on the schedule of the Ministries. | |
| <p>2: UNHCR findings of the 2018 Participatory</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCHR conducts participatory assessment each year on different themes. This year's theme was livelihood. The assessment was done through 8 group discussions in Gaziantep and Mardin with male and female adults and youth. The assessment covered not only Syrians but also Somalians, Iranians, and Iraqis. | |

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| <p>Assessment on Livelihoods</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the assessment, Ministries were also present so that they can understand the challenges. • The assessment aimed to understand SuTP and refugees' access to livelihood and their interest in livelihood opportunities; in other words, whether they are interested in working if there are job opportunities. • The assessment reminded that the resources should be optimized between vulnerable and employable. • The assessment found out that less than 10% can speak Turkish. 7% knows legal framework regulating work permit. 10% is aware of İŞKUR. • In terms of employment, 79% stated that legal barriers are the most important obstacle. • The findings of the assessment suggest that refugees are not usually willing to work as they think they may go back to their countries or be resettled. • The assessment also showed that refugee women are not willing to work as they are scared of possible harassment at workplace. • It is noted that the perception of refugees should be altered otherwise integrating them into the economy might be too challenging. • It is stated that advocacy for formal employment is crucial in partnership with private sector. In this sense, information sharing, more support for entrepreneurship training, increasing mobility of refugees and providing child-care facilities are considered as important. • The assessment revealed that there is very limited access for formal employment and financial services. Women especially are concerned very much social pressure. • Because there are very limited jobs that require qualification, companies offer minimum wages for low-skilled jobs and ESSN beneficiaries do not accept such offers. • It is claimed that exploitation and work accidents might discourage ESSN beneficiaries to hold a formal job. In addition, it is noted that employers usually pay less the Syrians and it might be affecting their decisions for formal employment. | |
| <p>3: UNDP Turkey Resilience Project in Response to the Syria Crisis Job Creation Component (C1)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Private Sector Survey (the survey) aims to understand the challenges of the private sector vis-à-vis the Syrian crisis as well as the perception of Private sector with regards to the Syria Crisis. • The survey covered different sectors including machinery, plastic, textiles, chemicals, furniture, and ready-wear • The survey revealed that 54% of companies get the information regarding refugees from the news. • Private sector evaluates refugees' contribution to Turkey in a positive way in the sense that they can have more access to Arabic speaking markets. • %13,2 of the enterprises have plans to target Syrians whereas 16% of the enterprises stated that they do not want to take any initiative for refugees. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the survey, only 3,4 % of Turkish enterprises have established partnerships with Syrian enterprises. • The survey's results reveal that 24% of the enterprises had employed a Syrian whereas only 40% of those who employed a Syrian received work permit for their Syrian employees. • 72% percent of enterprises stated that employing Syrians is a social responsibility. • It is noted that 60% of Turkish enterprises would like to be informed about the opportunities related to refugees. • According to the Mapping of Syrian-owned Enterprises in Turkey (the mapping) most of the enterprises are not aware of the procedure of work permit application. • Furniture sector and enterprises in Hatay perform worse in terms of getting work permit. • Syrian-owned enterprises are concentrated on manufacture sectors. Most of them operate export-oriented and/or as trader. • 60% of Syrian-owned enterprises export and 40% of those get their revenues only through export. • In the 300 Syrian-owned enterprises, almost 2,766 people are employed. The survey suggests that when Syrian-owned enterprises hire woman employee, they tend to hire Turkish women and found the performance of Turkish women employee satisfactory. According to the mapping, out of 326 women employees 271 are Turkish women whereas out of 2440 men employees 1799 are Syrians. • According to the mapping, most of the Syrian-owned enterprises are in contact with Tax Office, BSOs, and Office of Governor. Yet, they have very limited or no contact with institutions such as İŞKUR, KOSGEB, Development Agency, and Universities. • It is stated in the mapping that Syrian-owned enterprises evaluate their business as growing; yet, they at the same time do not consider hiring any new employees. • It is underlined that an EBRD research suggest that when Syrian-owned enterprises that establish partnerships with Turkish enterprises grow more than those who do not establish partnerships. • It is underscored that İŞKUR and KOSGEB increased their budget for the Syrian crisis and will expand their network towards SuTP. It is also suggested that the services of İŞKUR and KOSGEB may become more accessible towards SuTP by making their services available also in Arabic language. | |
| <p>4: Mainstreaming Environment in the 3RP Inter-sector consultation process</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3RP sectors will mainstream environment this year therefore a template will be shared on what support 3RP members need for their activities. | <p>Template on environment mainstreaming will be shared.</p> |

4: AOB

- The next LHWG meeting will be held in Hatay in April.
- Suggested by IOM, options are being explored to hold LHWG meetings in Şanlıurfa as well.